

Meeting Summary for the Record

Date of Meeting: February 16, 2005

Attendees: Makah Tribe representatives (Dave Sones, Micah McCarty, Nathan Pamplin, John Arum and Rick Marks), Terry Wright (NW Indian Fisheries Commission), and NOAA/NMFS representatives (Laurie Allen, Tom Eagle, Rolland Schmitten, Karl Gleaves, and Roger Eckert)

Subject: Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) Reauthorization

Karl Gleaves (NOAA/GCF) explained that because of ex parte constraints associated with the MMPA waiver process, the Tribe's MMPA waiver application should not be discussed at the meeting, but that MMPA reauthorization was an acceptable topic.

Rick Marks indicated that the Tribe would seek an MMPA amendment in response to the court's decision in Anderson v. Evans, and that the Tribe is looking at the Alaska Native provision in the MMPA as a possible template.

Laurie Allen (F/PR) explained that NOAA/NMFS is working on an MMPA reauthorization proposal based on prior Administration proposals, but is open to suggestions and is willing to look at the issues. Laurie also indicated that the timeline for MMPA reauthorization is somewhat uncertain at this point.

Tom Eagle indicated that Alaska Natives and the Interior Department would be interested in any proposals.

Micah McCarty indicated that the Tribe had ceded valuable lands in exchange for its Treaty rights, and is seeking to maintain those rights.

On a separate note, Rolland Schmitten, the U.S. International Whaling Commission (IWC) Commissioner, indicated that the key issue before the IWC at this time is a possible Revised Management Scheme (RMS) for commercial whaling, but that progress on the RMS has gone slower than expected.

Dave Sones and Micah McCarty thank NOAA/NMFS for their work with the Makah Tribe.